Majority of the books, newspapers, magazines exported are in the English language.

Import of fabrics under special import Licence

888. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow import of fabrics and garments under special import licence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are contained in Public Notice No. 271(PN)/92-97 dated 15.2.1995 of Ministry of Commerce, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

US proposal to India for APEC Membership

889. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India signed a number of agreements with USA during the visit of US Commerce Secretary to India;

(b) if so, the main features of each of the agreements signed.

(c) whether it is also a fact that U.S. Commerce Secretary expressed the view that India could apply for membership of APEC; and

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM): (a) and (b) During the visit of Mr. Ronald H. Brown. United States Secretary of Commerce to India in January 1995, India and USA signed an MOU on the formation of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance. The Commercial Alliance provides a frame work for increased interactions between the private sector Enterprised in both countries for expanding business relations. Chief Executive Officers of 25 large American Companies accompanied Mr. Ron Brown on this visit and signed or announced a number of agreements etc. in different sectors including Power, Telecommunications, Petro Chemicals involving private sector investments.

(c) No such view was expressed by the US Commerce Secretary during the official talks.

(d) Do not arise.

Difficulties faced by consumers due to shortage of Coffee

890. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the common man in the country is facing a lot of difficulty in getting enough coffee for their use, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(b) whether it i also a fact that exporters try to export more coffee to earn more in terms of foreign exchange:

(c) what is the total requirement of coffee for local consumption in the country and steps taken to meet the increasing needs of the consumers; and

(d) details of the coffee exports and consumption within the country during the last three months together with Government's action to meet the local needs of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With a record production of coffee in the year 1993-94, there is no dearth of coffee for cosumption in the domestic market. However, the common man has been facing difficulties due to raise in price of coffee.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The total requirement of coffee for consumption in the domestic marekt is estimated to be approximately 60,000 tonnes which constitutes 30 to 35 per cent of the total production in the country. 22,513 tonnes of coffee have been exported during the last three months. No significant rise in consumption has been noticed over the last three months over an approximate intake of 5,000 tonnes a month. In order to increase the domestic availability of coffee, the Government had put a quantitative restriction on export of coffee apart from banning a few grades till 31st December, 1994.

Changes in Vabal Scheme

891. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to make changes in the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme as an alternative to the IPRS;

(b) whether there is a likelihood of misuse of VABAL Scheme; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has announced an alternative scheme to enable the exporters of engineering products to obtain their iron and steel requirements from domestic producers at near international prices.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) does not arise.

Payment of CCS to PSUs.

892. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not yet cleared the payment of CCS amounts to the entitled Public Sector Undertakings due to financial constraints.

(b) whether Government have received appeals from the affected Public Sector Undertakings for early clearance of their dues on accounts of CCS;

(c) whether Government would take any decision thereon; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Misuse of Vabal Scheme

893. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that value Based Advance Licence Scheme overlooked a major aspect of the duty exemption scheme that duty rebate entitlement should not exceed what is applied for or what is consumed for export production;

(b) if so, what was and is the revenue loss and to what extent and how misuse occurred;

(c) whether corrective steps have been taken to remove the defects in the scheme;

(d) whether exporters are eligible to import any items of their preference against their export earning besides the items they use as inputs for their exports;

(e) whether exporters are allowed to transfer imported goods or indigenous goods with or without duty exemption; and